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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,231	03/09/2004	Marc Husemann	101769-268 #tesa1649	2181
27386	7590	02/18/2010	EXAMINER	
GERSTENZANG, WILLIAM C. NORRIS MC LAUGHLIN & MARCUS, PA 875 THIRD AVE, 8TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022			NERANGIS, VICKEY MARIE	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1796				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/18/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/796,231	HUSEMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vickey Nerangis	1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-9,11-13 and 15-32 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-9,11-13 and 15-32 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/06)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/10/2009 has been entered.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.
3. All outstanding rejections, except for those maintained below, are withdrawn in light of applicant's amendment filed on 12/10/2009.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 22, and 27 are objected to for the following reasons:
With respect to claims 1 and 22, the phrase stating "the flame retardant component comprises at least 25% by weight of the adhesive..." is incorrect because the adhesive comprises the flame retardant component.
With respect to claim 2, the phrase "said at least one acrylate adhesive component comprises at least 35% by weight of the adhesive" is incorrect because the adhesive comprises the acrylate adhesive component.

With respect to claim 4, the phrase "said at least one tackifying resin component comprises at least 25% of the adhesive" is incorrect because the adhesive comprises the tackifying resin component.

With respect to claims 13 and 27, it has improper Markush language because there is only component "Markush" group.

With respect to claim 15, it is includes improper Markush language because the "or" in line 4 of the claim should be replaced with an "and."

Preliminary Remarks

5. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to state that the adhesive comprise "a residual solvent and has a residual solvent of not more than 0.5 % by weight of the adhesive." It is the examiner's position that this phrase does not make mandatorily present the residual solvent because the specification clearly suggests that the residual solvent is optional or negligible. See page 10, lines 4-14 of the specification which states that the solvent is removed and therefore not present.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-13, 15-17, and 19-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Azuma (JP 09-286958, machine translation).

The rejection is adequately set forth in paragraph 2 of Office action mailed on 4/20/2009 and is incorporated here by reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 4, 18, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azuma (JP 09-286958, machine translation) in view of Parson or Boyce.

The rejection is adequately set forth in paragraph 3 of Office action mailed on 4/20/2009 and is incorporated here by reference.

8. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15, 18-29, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parsons (US 5,851,663).

Parsons discloses flame retardant pressure-sensitive adhesives and tapes comprising acrylic adhesive such as those based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, and acrylonitrile and 10-60 wt % of a non-halogen flame retardant such as ammonium polyphosphate (claims 1, 4, and 5). Parsons exemplifies a composition comprising a copolymer of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and acrylic acid, a hydrogenated rosin ester tackifier in an amount of about 37 wt % (calculated from starting amounts in col. 16, line 65 to col. 17, line 5), and 30-50 phr P-40 flame retardant that is ammonium polyphosphate (col. 13, lines 65-67), wherein the composition is applied to a silicone treated paper release liner and dried (col. 17, lines 18-25). In col. 3, line 34 to col. 4, line 6, Parsons teaches other suitable and common ways of mixing the flame retardant into the adhesive and applying the adhesive to various substrates such as metal, cloth, etc by extrusion and knife-coating.

While Parsons teaches that the composition is dried (i.e., solvent removed), it fails to explicitly disclose the amount of residual solvent remaining like claimed.

Even so, given that Parsons discloses drying the composition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to dry the composition in such a way so that negligible amounts of solvent (including amounts like presently claimed amount of up to 0.5 wt %) remain in the composition.

With respect to claim 5, case law holds that if there is no evidence in the record pointing to any critical significance in a claimed molecular weight then the claims are not patentable over the prior art. *In re Hoeschele*, 406 F.2d 1403, 160 USPQ 809 (CCPA 1969). Should applicant argue criticality of molecular weight, it will be noted that applicant's examples do not indicate or suggest a critical molecular weight. Such data has little to no probative value.

With respect to claim 29, this claim which further limits vinyl compounds does not exclude the alternative embodiment of vinyl esters. Since the latter embodiment is disclosed by Parsons as discussed above, it is proper to include claim 29 in this rejection.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parsons (US 5,851,663) in view of Sakurai (US 6,893,583).

The discussion with respect to Parsons in paragraph 8 above is incorporated here by reference.

Parsons fails to disclose comonomers that include cycloalkyl groups in the acrylic adhesive component.

Sakurai discloses a flame-retardant hot melt adhesive and teaches that the adhesive polymer include a comonomer with a glass transition temperature of its homopolymer exceeding

0°C in order to improve adhesive properties (col. 4, lines 57-65). These monomers include cyclohexyl methacrylate (col. 5, lines 7-8).

Given that Parsons discloses acrylic adhesives and further given that the adhesive properties are improved in an acrylic adhesive if a cyclohexyl methacrylate is included as taught by Sakurai, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a comonomer with a cycloalkyl group in the acrylic adhesive of Parsons.

10. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parsons (US 5,851,663) in view of Everaerts (US 5,648,425).

The discussion with respect to Parsons in paragraph 8 above is incorporated here by reference.

Parsons fails to disclose crosslinking monomer that is photoinitiated.

Everaerts discloses acrylic pressure sensitive adhesives and teaches that crosslinkers such as benzophenone-crosslinking agents are added to enhance cohesive strength (col. 6, lines 22-26).

Given that Parsons discloses acrylic pressure sensitive adhesives and further given that Everaerts teaches that the cohesive strength of acrylic pressure sensitive adhesives are improved by the addition of benzophenone-crosslinking agents, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the crosslinking monomers like claimed in the composition of Parsons.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed 12/10/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically, applicant argues that Azuma fails to disclose the presence of solvents like claimed.

With respect to argument (A), the claims have been amended to state that the adhesive comprise "a residual solvent and has a residual solvent of not more than 0.5 % by weight of the adhesive." It is the examiner's position that this phrase does not make mandatorily present the residual solvent because the specification clearly suggests that the residual solvent is optional or negligible. See page 10, lines 4-14 of the specification which states that the solvent is removed and therefore not present. Therefore, Azuma still reads on the instant claims.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickey Nerangis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2701. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

vn

/Vickey Nerangis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796